

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1 and 8 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Request for Entry of this After-Final Amendment and Reply:

Applicant respectfully requests that this After-final Amendment and Reply be considered and entered, since: a) the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 8 are only of a clarifying nature to explicitly recite a feature that was believed to already exist in those claims, and b) since it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Second Request for Consideration of Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement

The PTO is respectfully requested to provide an indication of consideration of a Proprietary Information Disclosure Statement (PIDS) filed on December 10, 2001. Please note that the PIDS referenced two co-pending U.S. patent applications, which have now matured into U.S. Patent No. 6,778,288 and U.S. Patent No. 6,795,210, respectively. Please note that this request was made in the previously-filed response, but was not mentioned in the final Office Action.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,872,569 to Salgado et al. This rejection is traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Salgado discloses a technique for providing a metaphorical template with status information and control metaphors so that one segment of a job ticket can be executed while another segment of the job ticket can be reprogrammed due to an unavailable attribute. See column 1, lines 15-22 of Salgado.

In the system of Salgado, prior to execution of any part of a job, a capability/attribute set is obtained, in order to determine the appropriate components to perform the various parts of the job. See column 14, lines 35-48 of Salgado.

This is much different from the claimed job schedule succeeding means, in which a schedule of a synthetic job generated from a first device is succeeded to a second device when the second device which executes the output-related candidate job and the first device which has executed the input-related candidate job are different at the synthetic job. Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite that the job is succeeded after the first device has executed the input-related candidate job (and thus not before that time).

Salgado determines the appropriate components for executing a job prior to any of those components acting on the job, and thus Salgado does not teach or suggest the features recited above with respect to the claimed job schedule succeeding means. It is important to note the 'past tense' utilized in claim 1, whereby the first device has already executed the input-related candidate job (e.g., a first portion of the synthetic job). Thus, after the first device has executed its portion of the synthetic job, the job schedule succeeding means succeeds the schedule to the second device, so that the second device can complete the synthetic job (e.g., take over the job at the place where the first device left off).

Thus, presently pending independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Salgado.

Presently pending independent (method) claim 8 has been amended in a manner similar to the amendments made to claim 1, and thus claim 8 is also not anticipated by Salgado.

The presently pending dependent claims under rejection are patentable due to their respective dependency on either claim 1 or claim 8, as well as for the specific features recited in those dependent claims.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 16, 2005

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